

Neil Gorsuch came before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing. Senators from both sides had the opportunity to ask him questions. Both they and the American people were able to learn more about Judge Gorsuch, about the type of jurist he has been and will continue to be, about his character and temperament, and about his aptitude to serve on the Supreme Court.

His answers reflected what we have all come to find about the judge over the past several weeks. He has sterling credentials and a reputation as a fair and impartial jurist. He is also known to be a gifted writer, who is smart, kind, humble, and independent.

As I mentioned yesterday, his impressive testimony has caught the attention of publications, news outlets, and commentators from across the country and across the political spectrum. In a panel discussion just yesterday, an MSNBC commentator noted Judge Gorsuch's "masterful performance"—one that he called a "tour de force."

Another panelist and NBC correspondent had a complimentary view of the nominee, as well, noting that "in terms of character, in terms of professionalism, [and in terms of] integrity, there wasn't, I would argue, anything, or hardly anything there to criticize Gorsuch on."

The Wall Street Journal noted that Gorsuch "stressed his independence" throughout the hearing. The Detroit news echoed these observations and has urged the Senate to confirm him. It editorialized that "[a]fter two days of often hostile hearings, Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch is proving himself an even-tempered, deeply knowledgeable nominee who should be confirmed by the Senate."

The paper also noted that Judge Gorsuch is "[eminently] qualified" and that he "is coming across in the hearings as the very image of a thoughtful jurist. He displayed an impressive depth of knowledge, and admirable patience. And he's carefully followed past practice of judicial nominees in refusing to say how he'd rule on specific issues."

His independence is really without question at this point. The American Bar Association, which awarded Judge Gorsuch its highest rating of unanimously "well qualified," recently submitted testimony to the Judiciary Committee. Here is what the Bar Association had to say about Judge Gorsuch's independence:

Our evaluation process provided an excellent opportunity to gain a glimpse at whether Judge Gorsuch is a judge who ascribes to the concept of an independent judiciary. Based on the writings, interviews, and analyses we scrutinized to reach our rating, we discerned that Judge Gorsuch believes strongly in the independence of the judicial branch of government, and we predict that he will be a strong but respectful voice in protecting it.

The ABA went on:

As one interviewee noted with alacrity, "Judge Gorsuch has 'grit,' which he gets

from being a multi-generation Westerner." Another stated, "He is dedicated to the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers and to the independence of the judiciary." Yet another observed, "In addition to his outstanding academic credentials and brilliant mind, Judge Gorsuch's demeanor and written opinions during his tenure on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals demonstrate that he believes unwaveringly in the rule of law and judicial independence. In my opinion, he is exceptionally well qualified to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States." We agree.

I certainly agree with that. This is from the American Bar Association, an organization that the Democratic leader and former Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Committee have deemed the gold standard for evaluating nominees. In addition, the assistant Democratic leader acknowledged yesterday that Judge Gorsuch is "very gifted" and "has a great background and service as judge."

But despite the Judge's outstanding performance, his exceptional background, and the extensive support he has received from people of all political leanings, we know that some Senate Democrats will continue trying to come up with any reason to delay the confirmation process. It is not the first time we have seen our friends across the aisle engage in obstructionist tactics. In fact, we just saw a historic level of obstruction when it came to confirming the President's Cabinet.

We know that our colleagues are under a great deal of pressure from the far left. We know some of these groups are calling for them to "resist." We know that even more than 4 months after the election, some on the far left simply refuse to accept the outcome of last year's election.

Well, it is past time to move on from that mindset and return to the serious business of governing. One way we can do so is by confirming Judge Gorsuch as the next Supreme Court Justice without delay. He is a proven jurist. He is an outstanding intellect. He has earned the respect and admiration of so many—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans alike. He is also unquestionably independent.

Today we will hear even more praise for Judge Gorsuch as witnesses come before the Judiciary Committee. I urge my colleagues to show him the fair consideration he deserves and, ultimately, to come together in supporting his nomination in the days ahead.

#### REPEALING AND REPLACING OBAMACARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today marks the seventh anniversary of ObamaCare becoming law. In the years since, millions of Americans lost their plans and their doctors. They saw the cost of their premiums and deductibles soar. They watched their choices disappear as insurers were forced out of the marketplace. Former President Bill Clinton called ObamaCare the "craziest thing in the

world." He was right. It was a direct attack on the middle class. These failed policies are affecting real people every day. Americans expected the law to deliver on its promises, but instead they have paid more and received less. ObamaCare has been a flawed system from the start. Over the past 7 years, things have gotten progressively worse.

Our Nation cannot continue on this trajectory as ObamaCare continues to unravel at every level, leaving Americans to pick up the pieces. On this seventh anniversary of ObamaCare's enactment, Americans deserve a better way forward. Thankfully, we finally have a Congress and a President who are committed to delivering much needed reform.

The legislation currently before the House will help bring relief. It will repeal and replace ObamaCare, which is exactly what we promised the American people we would do. Instead of forcing Americans to buy something they may not want, like ObamaCare does, this bill gives Americans the freedom to choose what type of coverage is right for them.

I look forward to the House passing that bill soon, and we look forward to taking it up in the Senate, where there will be a robust amendment process. Then, I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues to pass it. It is important, however, to remember that this bill is only one part of a three-pronged strategy to bring relief. The administration is already working to fix the damage 7 years of ObamaCare has done to the health markets across the country, and we will continue to consider further legislation in Congress to bring more competition and reform.

It is time to move on from 7 years of ObamaCare's broken promises and unyielding attacks on the middle class. The status quo is not an option. So let's work together to get this done.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUB- MITTED BY THE FEDERAL COM- MUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 34, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 34) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services."